



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

Meeting Date: October 15, 2012
Meeting Location: Juvenile Justice Center
1000 South Michigan
South Bend, IN

Council Members Present: Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; William Horton, Elkhart County DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko County DCS; Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Judge Peter Nemeth, St. Joseph County Probate Court; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County; Janet Imel, Elkhart County Probation.

Council Members Absent: Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheillbush; Sally Mahnken; Scott Filley.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager; Paige Hamilton, SCAN; Libby Martin, LSSI; Mike Marchi, Memorial Hospital Behavioral Health; Barbara Vernon, CAPS; Kimberly Slaughter, St Joseph County DCS; Heather Kestian DCS; Bonita Schrock, Oaklawn; Shelly Ambroziak, YSB; Jean Reed, Dockside; Angela Rosenbrock, CAPS; Christine Beckman-Johnson, DCS; Michele Hadary, The Villages; Karen Lafferty, St. Joseph County DCS.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 9-17-12 reviewed. Joni Tusing and Aretha Green should be listed under "Others in Attendance" instead of as "Council Members". Erin Shidler motioned approval of the minutes. Terri Zornig seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

The questions and suggestions from the last meeting on how to improve the Child and Family Team Meetings were reviewed. Reminder was given to continuously think about how we can be less intimidating in the Team Meetings. We will continue taking suggestions on how to improve these meetings.

3. Community Partners Update. Paige Hamilton is filling in for Rachel Tobin-Smith. He brought the correct financial information for the current contract time. They have been very busy. They are still struggling to meet the Initial Contact within 5 days, which is a continual thing that we work at. The key to the referral is to hit them the same day they come in. By waiting, it decreases the chance of engaging them. They have 2 new staff on board, and have been getting many referrals since schools have picked up.
4. Service Update. Aretha Green is leaving employment. She is going to another department. Someone will be filling this position for the interim until her position can be filled. Aretha had talked last month about Proposals for Home Based Services. An e-mail from Aretha was shared stating that the Home

Based Comprehensive RFP can be located on the website for anyone interested in doing a proposal for those services.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, reported on the Expenditure report. Region 3 spent \$1,998,471 from the Family and Children Fund in the month of September. We still do not have the budget. Expenditures and revenues are both down, as usual. Child Welfare spent \$493,748 on Care of Wards in Foster Homes, \$1,049,375 on Care of Wards in Institutions, and \$439,235 on Preservation Services. We are right in line with the spending from the last quarter of last year.

Judge Nemeth had several questions:

--Has there been an analysis done to determine what the savings really are? What is the percentage of children that are eligible? Over 50%, but even if they are eligible it doesn't pay 100% of the placement cost. Currently it is paying approximately 67%, which is determined by the Federal Government.

--Is the number of children being treated way down? The big drop is in the placement. There are less in residential than at this time last year.

--Even if we are saving money, are we getting results? We do not have current reports from Magik, the new computer system. The last figures we have shows that we have fewer numbers returning after dismissed wardship, and closed the IA.

6. Counties Updates. Marshall—have a worker in training, will be at full staff.

Kosciusko—have 2 new employees in training, are starting to feel relief.

St Joseph—Administrative team has been working on QSR's, what we can learn from them and what we can improve on; better transfers from the assessment team to the permanency team; doing the "prep meeting" at the Assessment stage, hopefully with the Permanency worker also, have a stronger team, reviewing on the CFTM's for all the cases, and focusing on who are their Informal Supports.

Elkhart—struggling with staff turn-over, have 4 in new worker training. This struck the Assessment Team more than other areas.

7. Other Business. Kimberly Slaughter and Heather Kestian spoke on the Collaborative Care Program for the older youth, either be "aging out" or probation youth. This is a voluntary program and they have to be at least 18 to be fully into the program. It allows them to make some of their own decisions, while still having support and guidance. It offers some flexibility for housing options: foster care, in own apartment or share an apartment, college dorm, host home, and also staff-supported housing similar to a group home. They gain a sense of ownership and control of their life. The youth can choose where they want to reside and their Collaborative Care Case Manager is assigned to them where they are. We help them build a support network so they can function when we are gone.

--Is there a Court Classification for these youth? They are considered "Juvenile Miscellaneous". We can usually get them going within about 2 weeks.

--Is there data being kept for the kids that initially decline but then want to come back? There are 42 different indicators that are tracked to see if this is making a difference.

--Is being a CHINS or delinquent a prerequisite? Yes, the case could already have been closed. Up until the juvenile turns 20, they are still eligible. The juvenile had to have been in placement when they turned 18, not in DOC, a psychiatric facility, or in a detention center. This is determined by the Federal Foster Care definition of what is an "out of home placement".

The Collaborative Care Program is an extension of Foster Care. Situations will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Individuals can contact Kimberly Slaughter for more information at Kimberly.Slaughter@dcs.in.gov.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Next RSC Meeting – Monday, November 19, 2012 at 10:00 AM., Joy Rose Center 1000 W. Hively Ave. Elkhart, IN